INTERVIEW WITH MR. JOHN L. PLUMMER,

MRS. C. PEARLE ZIMMERMAN

AND MRS. MARY LOU PLUMMER RANEY

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Conducted by:

Dr. James Dodson

and

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Interview with Mr. John L. Plummer, Mrs. Mary Lou Plummer Raney, and Pearle Zimmerman by Dr. James L. Dodson and his assistant Ms. Paula Boyer

Dodson: Mrs Raney when we first came in you were telling us about your family and their connections with the history of California I think that's so interesting that we'd like very much to have you tell that for the tape.

Raney: Uh my father whom you will interview shortly Jack or John L. Plummer and who moved to San Fernando Valley in was uh a sixth generation his uh.... great great great great grandfather was uh settled permanatly in Monterey in 178...no his great great great grandfather settled permanatly in Monterey in 1781 and uh his four bears belong to the (sp?) Archwayo's family and of course many of the early day California families uh intermarried the (sp?) Castro's and the uh..uh (sp?) Ardwayo's and the uh you name their number of early day families and a they settled permantly in Monterey in 1781 but the first one to come here was uh a young (sp?) lutenant with a (sp?) portal (sp?) expedition uh...

Dodson: That would be 1769!

Raney: So that would be 1769 but the they settled in Monterey in 1781 and they were they were uh (sp?) a lusterous family in early day California his great great grandfather was acting governer I believe in 1823 and then in 1833 the first navy born California governer uh and I can't remember his name but they were all (sp?) Arwayo's another interesting thing his family his uh grandmothers father brought the first printing press to California and all of this is in uh is in Bancroft we can find you those references if you'd like uh so he has had uh really interesting background in California history uh not with standing this from the San Fernando Valley and they were considered pioneers because they did move out in 1913 when he and my mother were married.

Dodson: Where was he living before, just before, he moved to the San Fernando Valley?

Raney: Uh before mother and dad were married and moved to San Fernando Valley they lived on Van Ness Ave. on parcel or, one of the remaining parcels of land that his grandmother (is that right?) had originally filed on and I think daddy can tell you this story daddy can tell you this story about where he lived and how they came by this property and it it's sort of fascinating all right dad you want to..... hold this thing.

Plummer: Let see it was 1864 I believe when they, they came from

east from eastern Canada.

Raney: No no no....Your grand your grandfather had the ship and was plying the waters and.....San Francisco and he your grand... your father was born in San Francisco in 1851.

Plummer: Ya he was a ship captain and sailed to the Orient.

Raney: He wants to know about Van Ness Ave. and that property where your grandmother filed on.

Plummer: She filed on 1864 she was running a restaurant north of Main St. she could't buy any vegetables so there were two streams of water went down there so she planted lots of vegetables and they built a home there we all lived there and uh well that's all I know about she furnished the vegetables for them that place and then of course later they sold all five or ten acres at a time they needed money my dad ended up with 80 acres which he subdivided ..... that is in Norton between uh some it First and Fourth St. and some of it between Third and Fourth.

Raney: In Wilshire.

Plummer: In the Wilshire District.

Raney: ....Ambassador Hotel.

Plummer: Well I don't remember that.

Raney: One of the things that's most interesting is his grandmother traded Windsor Square for a piano in 1867 so that they could dance. They were fond of music and dancing and they traded that whole sqaure block on Wilshire Ave for a piano ha ha ha.

Dodson: That sounds a little like the story we hear about the Indians getting twenty four dollars worth of beads for Manhattan Island ha ha ha ha.

Raney: That's just about the way it was, too.

Dodson: Well now you move to the valley then in 1913. Is that right?

Plummer: Ya we were married, my wife and I, we moved out there.

Dodson: I see so you went to school in Los Angeles?

Plummer: I got most of my work at USC.

Raney: Daddy you went to military school in.....

Plummer: In elementary school of course I went to Milit...Los

Angeles Military Academy.

Raney: Where is that?

Plummer: That was on Commonwealth.

Raney: Tell him why you had to go there.

Plummer: Oh, they closed our school they moved to here up in Santa Monica Ave. we to have the old Cahuenga School on the uh, I forgot the name of the street it was Temple Street.

Dodson: Ya, so that was to far away to go there any more...

Plummer: Well I couldn't, it a mile a mile and a half to walk. So my dad sent me to Military school which was on Commonwealth..... We had fun there too.

Raney: They had two high schools and they have Poly.

Plummer: Poly and L.A. High.

Raney: And L.A. High, and he never went to either of those schools.

Plummer: Because there have been so many killed in a football game they just had such differences. You know they, they weren't satisfied just playing the game, but they wanted to fight too so they had.....

Dodson: Does that make your family feel that it was unsafe to send you to one of those schools then?

Plummer: It was, it really was that they felt so any way so they put me in military school. I enjoyed that it was very nice.

Dodson: But you uh didn't go ahead and have any sort of a career in the military. When you finished the military school you you stayed in civilian life...ha ha ha..

Plummer: I won the drill medal.

Raney: Ha ha ha... scolarship medal.

Plummer: A scolarship medal too and that.

Raney: Did you play taps?

Plummer: Hum.

Raney: Did you play taps?

Plummer: No I couldn't play taps..ha ha ha..

Dodson: You didn't play any instrument I take it?

Plummer: No, they had me take piano lessons but I didn't want to care to learn I wanted to play a trumpet, but my dad wouldn't let me. He said they all drink too much. He had a friend that played in an orchestra. He said thay they drank too much ha ha ha he wouldn't let me take it. So uh so I never learn to play a trumpet that I wanted.

Dodson: I take it your family was pretty strict in those days then. Is that right?

Plummer: Oh, I think all families were in that day.

Dodson: You think there's been uh considerable change then in the attitude towards childern and the way to bringing then up fron when you remember it?

Plummer: Oh, I suppose so.... More reasonable..

Dodson: Uh, What do you think about the way your daughter brought hers up? Do you think she was too lenient compared to the way you were.....

Plummer: I think it was fine the way she did it ha ha ha ha....

Dodson: I see you know to say the right thing at the right time ha ha ha ha....Well now then you moved out to the Valley after you were married, did you say?

Plummer: In 1913, my dad made a downpayment on 20 achres and uh started a nice home....

Dodson: How old were you then that.....

Plummer: I was 20..

Raney: Exactly 20 by four days ha ha...

Dodson: I see.

Raney: Ah Dr. Dodson it's interesting uh the home which is his father built, for him and furnished completly with this ..... oak and really beautiful furniture in that early day and today their considered classics and are quite costly. John C. Austin was the architect for their home and my grandfather his dad apparently did everything well he not only buit and furnished the house for mother and dad, but he did also for two of dads brothers and their wives and one of his sisters. So he was setting up people on parcels all around the country side in what is now

Sepulveda but it would be ..... Mission Arches then .... We always lived in what was called Mission Arches, and Plummer Street is named for my dad not for his parents who came out after wards and built that big red brick house that's on Sepulveda Blvd. just south of Plummer Street. Do you know where that is?

Dodson: No,.....

Raney: Okay, it's a boys' school now and it is the house that my grandfather came out and built when. In 1917 about?

Plummer: Ya, about 1716....

Raney: But before that mother and dad and all these other houses were sold around us and none of them were to farmers or could have been they have just been turned that way. But uh, uh we lived at 15720 Plummer Street and the house is still there it has the big palm trees, and the oak tree was cut down but, it had a redwood tree and there's a pine that is a sort of land mark all over the Valley. We can see it when we come down even with all the trees around it.

Dodson: Well that would be interesting for us to visit because we would like to see some of these houses that have stood in the Valley for.....

Raney: Now the house that we lived.. when we were all born there mother and dad built in 1913 uh, is occupied now by Dr. Black. What's his first name dad?

Plummer: I don't remember dear just Dr. Black...

Raney: Okay, Dr. Black and he has seven childern. We had a tennis court and that was not the day when people had tennis courts at there home but, ... dad played tennis and we all played and uh the the court would't be considered ..top first class by todays standards but, it was really a good court..

Plummer: It's a nice court.

Raney: And uh, it was built in ten foot sections and we had fences so the water didn't go out of the balls didn't go out into the .....water cause it was a.....wallnut grove all around...

Dodson: Ah ha...

Raney: Ya, you want to cut that machine off.....

Plummer: Great fields of barley just dry farmed, see they had no

um no obstruction whatever they would.....from our place clear to the Southern Pacific track. The harvest was great harvest go down there and harvest of barley. That was the main crop there then and then later we got the growing oat, hay cause people had a lot of horses and needed hay so uh planted hay and later planted beans.

Dodson: I know in uh some what earlier times the Lankershim family planted wheat. Do remember any wheat fields in the Valley?

Plummer: Yah, they had good, lots of wheat very lot of wheat. I remember that too but I tried it one year but it didn't do too well or I didn't know how to do it.

Dodson: Well I was rather surprised because I don't associate wheat growing..with California but then I discovered the Lankershims have been able to plant wheat successfully.

Raney: Uh, one other thing I can remember daddy telling about is when he was just a boy which would be at the turn of the century, say 1899 or 18...1900 when he was 6.7 years old. He and his mother and father went out in a horse and buggy into the Lankershim area to buy lugs of peaches.

Plummer: Ya..ha ha..

Dodson: That's what I understand that there were a quite few peaches raised.....

Plummer: Peach orchard and they were good too.

Dodson: And I understand that they were a quite few walnuts raised in the Valley. Do you remember that?

Plummer: They planted walnuts but they, well there were a lots of them they, Sunshine Ranch and oh the big ranch west of our place I forget who owned that they had lots of walnuts.

Dodson: What exactly was your place Valley?

Plummer: Oh about three miles south of San Fernando three and a half on Plummer St.

Dodson: I see.

Raney: West of Sepulveda Blvd.

Plummer: Yah.

Raney: And he did plant walnut groves originally he planted uh grain and so forth 1913 but then uh about 1916 he was growing beans and row crops and then he'd take on or

lease or rent extra property and he grew lettuce and all sorts of things even mint one year. Didn't you?....

Plummer: Yah, beans dropped to two cents a pound. Lord what can I do then that was just enough for the water. So I got a job teaching school I thought I'd teach five years I ended up with 25 and never farmed any more ha ha ha.....

Dodson: Well that's very interesting. Where did you teach?

Plummer: Hamilton High School in Culver City I had Our Gang Comedy remember those little kids I two in class that was the most adult things you ever saw ha ha ha they were wonderfull though.

Dodson: Uh were they as mischievous in class as they were in films.

Plummer: No, they were just.....very adult very above they were very well behaved they weren't in any trouble at all.....

Raney: Wasn't that a long way to travel?

Plummer: About 20 miles each way.

Raney; How long did it take then.

Plummer: Oh.

Raney: And how did you get there?

Plummer: Oh, I drov...I drive down about 45 minutes or an hour.

Raney: Coldwater Canyon usually didn't you?

Plummer: Yap, Coldwater Canyon.

Dodson: What was Coldwater Canyon like in those days would that it would't of been paved at that time would it?

Plummer: Ya, they were paved two lane highway...two lane highway. I remember one time we went over gosh the snow was piled like this in the middle of I got to school when I got to school they said what are you doing here. Well I said I work here, well they say school is closed ha ha....to much snow ha ha ha .....

Dodson: That's as bad as something that happened to me. I went to the College one day after we had a heavy rain after I got to the College I found that the roads to getting to College were impassible so the College was closed and I turn around and drive over the impassible roads it would be damned to get away from it ha ha ha...

Plummer: That was me too ha ha ha gosh.....

Dodson: Well then that uh,that was really quite a drip. What kind of car did you have at that time?

Plummer: A Dodge.

Raney: Your first car was a Dodge. Was it not? That you bought in 1917.

Plummer: Yah, a Dodge. Yah, then I had a Pierceless then when I went over there I guess.....

Raney: He bought a Pierceless in 1923 when we had a really big crop and I was just five years old and I can remember this was a pretty good looking car. It had jump seats and there were four childern in our family so we had the back seat then these little jump seats that pulled out.....That was a really beautiful car and we had some nice, nice times. Sunday afternoons we used to...drive from our home into see my grandparents who lived on Wilton Place and Annie Pearl lived also and uh I can remember the Cahuanga Pass and it was bumper to bumper but then it was two lane it was paved but it was so slow going in there sometime or coming out because ..uh everbody went in to town, I guess, for a Sunday afternoon. And that was the era when people took Sunday drives.

Dodson: Was there where the P.E. tracks going through there at that time.

Raney: Oh uh the.. the red trolley car went out to the Valley and til about 19..37.. or 8.

Plummer: I think so.

Raney: And that was the way we used...if we didn't catch the school bus to go up to high school in San Fernando I would take the..the a red the trolley home and get off and walk. Our home was west of Sepulveda Blvd. But I can.. I don't want to talk all the time. I want daddy to talk.

Dodson: We were very glad to have everybody talk ha ha ha. That's exactly what we want.

Raney: I can remember going to away to Berkeley in 1937 and when I came home, Sepulveda Blvd. was divided. The trolley tracks were taken out, and that was the beginning of the great influx population and the changes that I can see. I hadn't been aware before but after that you can see the changes in the Valley with the...great numbers of people coming in, and more industrialization and lots of little

houses and tracts. But uh before that the..the Sepulveda Blvd. ran just to the west of the Red Car and it was in time of heavy rain the water was always curb to curb. And if we had to go to San Fernando we could never go up stream which it was up stream. We had to go across Pacomia Wash and then up San Fernando Road. And I can remember on three occasions and one was on New Year's Eve that I had to stay all night with my friends because there was no way of getting home. But ah, it was it was really wonderful.

Dodson: You went to school in San Fernando.....

Raney: San Fernando High School and my brother did before me uh four years before I went and then I had two sisters who went to San Fernando High School after. I graduated in the class of 1935 but I graduated from grammer school from Mission Acres Grammar School in a class of nine students.

Dodson: Where was Mission Acres Grammar School located.

Raney: Mission Acres Grammar School the original one my brother started which I never attended is where Sepulveda Grammar School is now and it was one block west of Sepulveda Blvd. between Rayen and Parthenia?

Plummer: Parthenia..

Raney: Parthenia, uh another thing I want dad to try to tell you if he can remember is who had the first stores in the Mission Acres area. Uh,.. I don't remember ever going into the Hunley store but I think Oat and Ora Hunley had the first store in the area.

Plummer: Yah..

Raney: And then after that Mrs. Lowman and and the young Lowman boy who was in my class in grammar school uh was after the reunion but his mother was a unique woman who had a large family I have no idea what if any thing Mr. Lowman ever did but she ran a store and it was a store about the size of this room or half as big maybe and she would run store and ten babies nurse babies and the whole thing all right out there all the time. Uh there was a store down around the circle. Uh what do you call that little stretch from where you went from....service station down to where the uh clubhouse was. It's alittle round thing and then Parthenia....

Plummer: I don't remember dear.

Raney: Ok there was this little round thing. And there were a bunch of stores in here and that was the first store.

And I think that is were Hunley had been originally. And then the other store that I can remember as a child was Franklin's and that was on Sepulveda Blvd. and that was our super market so called..ha ha. It was alittle higher class market.

Boyer: Isn't that, is that where you sold when you were a framer, is that who sold your products to or who did you sell your products for the....

Plummer: Oh, people gotten ....beans one fellow I sold to in Ventura....Uh ha and then another one. In Los Angeles that I had his address and I'd go down and sell the beans to.

Raney: Well they had warehouses where they they took them all to be cleaned to and after you'd threshed the beans didn't you take them over to the place and then you sold them from there in Watts.

Plummer: That's right.

Raney: He didn't sell them I don't think from right out of the field did you contract that way.

Plummer: No no no no no no...well I wanted to buy them in the field but no I says I don't know how much they are how many they are. So he just waited and uh I took them over they had to be cleaned you know. Take to the warehouse they clean out the .... dirt and what stuff in 'em and uh I uh....

Dodson: Well you sold one to a wholesaler, then warehouse I didn't know wether there might be a cooperative for the for the beans like there is for the oranges, Sunkist Organazation.

Plummer: There were some but I didn't join the cooperate I'd like to sell my own.

Dodson: I see.

Boyer: When you grew walnuts did you ever sell those. A lot of people used to have stands I heard along, little stands with the farms. You never did.....

Raney: The only kind of stand we ever had, my brother when he was 8,10,12, used to gather poppies and all kids in the early days used to sell bunches of poppies to the people who were taking rides out from..... Los Angeles and my, my brother was uh, uh sharp young kid and one day he made a big sign and said," All the poppies you can pick for a dollar" you know and everbody just drove through it cleaned up ha ha ha. This was enterprising young business

then but no we never had fruit or vegetable stand. Although there were ..... masters(SP.) north of us on the way up to San Fernando always had a stand and there were several other stands in the vicinity. Uh another thing that daddy should tell you about if he can remember, and it was a really big occasion was when the uh Sepulveda Tunnel was opened.

Dodson: Uh, can you tell us about that the opening of the Sepulveda Tunnel?

Plummer: Yah my wife and I drove through it.

Raney: We all drove through it ha ha. There was a big parade.

Plummer: Yah I thats all I remember .... we just joined the groups and there we went through the tunnel.

Boyer: What was the tunnel built for? I am not familar with the tunnel.

Raney: Don't you....

Boyer: Yah but where was the tunnel?

Raney: Through the Santa Monica mountains.

Boyer: Oh I thought you ment a regular tunnel....

Raney: No no no, it was a little tunnel. Ya but that was the only access.

Boyer: Yah...

Plummer: It's still in use, it's still in use.

Dodson: It would be on the old Sepulveda now. The new road dosn't go through any tunnel.

Raney: No no it's on the old. It's not a freeway.

Dodson: That's why Paula wouldn't of recognized it. ...Of cource the new road doesn't go through.

Raney: ...But Ruth Harris was our neighbor and she was the queen on the float and there were. I must have been about oh 12 years I guess when this happened.

Boyer: Seems like it was a big thing ...floats.

Ranye: ...And they had a, they had a uh they uh a regular parade and they had barbecue.

Boyer: Oh good grief! And everybody came?

Raney: Ah.

Boyer: How many people were there? Do you have any idea?

Raney: Oh I don't know seems like a throng. I suppose maybe 305 I don't know. I really don't remember but it seems like a it was an exciting event. Now one thing uh that isn't touched on in your uh.

Dodson: Outline?

Raney: Outline, and I hope daddy can tell you about the improvement association, The Mission Acres Improvement Association. Has anybody talked to you about that at all?

Dodson: No.

Raney: Did you know that there was one? And how the clubhouse happened to be built. It's a tragic thing that my mother is not here because my mother had a morvelous memory and mother and dad were part of that and daddy was president of The Improvemnt Association one year. And they did build this little clubhouse that's still standing and that's down on Parthenia just where the circle starts coming. At least it was the last time I knew and uh the community church was always held in that building and the Sunday School. And although we were Episcopalians and went and belonged to the San Fernando Church. We used to go down to the Sunday School to the community and it was I think they called it a Methodist Episcopalians Church or something like that. But it was a community church and all the dances were held there and the the Women's Club met there and think the building really belonged to the Women's Club. Did it not?

Plummer: I think they finally got title to it, yes. One time we had the mayor of the Los Angeles come out. I happened to be president of the Associtaion and there I had to introduce the mayor. I was scared to death. Moma said to me "Oh don't be scared just introduce him like anybody else" so I did and it went along fine ha ha ha.

Boyer: Who was the mayor?

Plummer: I forgotten what his name was.

Dodson: What year was that uh then?

Plummer: Oh about 1917 or 18.

Raney: I think it was more like 19 or 20 don't you?

Plummer: Might have been.

Dodson: ....No one has told us about this at all. And that's we uh say don't follow our outline. If you can think of something that isn't on there, that's just fine with us.

Boyer: Mission Acres was that a town or just an area or that time was it uh?

Raney: Just an area.

Boyer: Just an area. Where there ....or lots?

Plummer: ...Yes there were ranches and later they called it Sepulveda ..when the street paved through they called Sepulveda...

Dodson: The early name was Sepulveda. Was San Fernando Mission wasn't or San Fernando Ave or something of that kind? Before it was changed to Sepulveda.

Plummer: Oh I don't think so I don't remember.

Dodson: We have an old map....

Plummer: ...Blvd. in the early days.

Dodson: Well wouldn't that have been in the town of San Fernando. We have an old map that uh shows what is now Sepulveda under the name of San Fernando Ave., if I remember corretly. Do you ever recall under that name?

Plummer: ..The only San Fernando Road that I remember came along the railroad track from Burbank.

Raney: Where it is now.

Boyer: Yah..

Raney: Uh, my aunt has a recollection from an early day how original property was sold....

Pearle: ..I don't remember the year but we went out. It was uh Mission Acres and they had uh they wou... had a lunch in sort of and then try to sell you lots. There..in Mission Acres..

Dodson: There was quite bit of thatn't there ... people out to.

Pearle: Every place around.

Raney: Did they out on in the railroad....

Pearle: No I happened to go out for myself.

Raney: Uh Hah.

Pearle: But they did they did many places. I know Huntington Park and lots of those places because we used to take they can't get us ... they meet us at the certain place we'd go on and then they'd bring us back and then of course I don't know maybe they dump us if we didn't buy it ha ha ha..We didn't buy alot but I remember going out there and Hunleys were there at that time. The Hunleys store was there the.

Dodson: What did they sell at that store. Do you recall?

Pearle: I didn't remember anything about the store because you see I wasn't interested I wasn't living there and I wasn't interested. We, we just went for the day and the lunch I suppose. Cause we got free ride. ha ha ha..No it was interesting you know to see around.

Boyer: Sure.

Plummer: I'll never forget one morning... About two o'clock in the morning my wife woke up and says "Honey I got to go. Lets lets go" all prepared with the car and everything ready to go to Burbank. Oh lord I thought I'd never get there and got there. Rushed her into the hospital and within oh within 20 minutes or so after we arrived we had this little girl. ha ha ha ..

Raney; That's not pertinant.. ha ha ha..

Dodson: Well it's certainly interesting.

Plummer: I called up ..home I told them I got a little girl ...you,re kidding. no I says it's true it's true. ha ha ha...

Boyer: Where was the hospital?

Plummer: Burbank.

Boyer: ...Went all the way from Mission Acres to Burbank?

Plummer: Yah.

Boyer: What hospital was that?

Raney: Burbank Hospital Dr. Thompson delivered half the childeren in the San Fernando Valley up to about that time. And the one of the leading Doctors in San Fernando who was if you want to call it a family Dr. was Dr. Macie and he took care of all the early day families sence San Fernando area. And I don't know who would've been, we were not really so much affiliated with Van Nuys as we were San Fernando. But I can remember even as child uh going up and sitting on uh uh a wooden box that bread

came out in, you know like the old cracker barrel and uh I asked dad after your outline came, if he can, if they had uh places to tether horses while people shop. Do you know? Cause here at Bakersfield, over at East Bakersfield they still have these round things ...where they would tie their horses. But uh I can remember the old hotels up there and the names of some the families, the Daces, the Flins, the Wilsons uh.

Dodson: The Wilsons were prominent....

Raney: Very prominent and they all went to the Episcopal Church and this is how my mother uh made many friendships lasted for years and years and years. The Porter Land Company. Was it The Porter Land Company? Was up and of course The Mission Land Company dad says in the early days the Ludlow brothers framed hundreds of acres of mission property. And uh they had how many teams of horses did you say?

Plummer: Oh they had it about uh 80 horses or mules and that made up about uh ten different plows that they ...horses or mules to a plow you see,...plows and stuff. So gee what early days.

Dodson: Did you come in contact with any of the Porter family? Did you know any of them or the Wilsons?

Plummer: Oh the Wilsons yes I, John P. Wilson I met him he was uh. My father had known him from some place in early days so he was very nice.

Dodson: Were any of the McClays alive at that time?

Plummer: Yah,they....

Dodson: Did you meet any of them?

Plummer: I don't remember meeting them but I think I did some how.

Raney: Mother went to tea parties there.

Plummer: Yah, that's the ace of history.

Dodson: I wonder of any of the members of those families are still alive and living in that area. Do you happened to know where any of them are?

Plummer: No I don't know.

Raney: Uh, Dr. Dodson I.....find out.

Dodson: We were talking about the car you had in 1917. Did you recall what gasoline sold for at that time? Any of those

things gasoline and oil and so on. And what the car it self cost? No, I can uh remember the difficulties my mother had in hearing her talk about them. Every single savings and loan that we had any money in, either went broke or reduced the amount of the capital or something of the kind so we sufferd severely in that. Uh what are your recollections of it?

Plummer: Well uh, uh I was raising beans and the price dropped to two cents a pound..

Boyer: What were they before do you know?

Plummer: Oh, I ....12 cents a pound for them.

Boyer: Ya..what a drop.

Plummer: Well that that made made good money but that was impossible .....that lead me to teaching school.

Dodson: Uh,ha.

Plummer: I could't farm any more so I just got a job teaching school. I'ld that I'd teach five years it'ld be all over ...25 and I enjoyed it.

Dodson: You kept your farm or did you sell it then?

Plummer: We sold it later.

Raney: They kept half the farm and sold half of it. But at that point he was not farming. He had just the walnuts. And one thing that I thought about a little back then and would be interesting to you. After the the crop had been harvested, always families would come, Mexican families would come from Buena Park or over the east side of Los Angeles. And camp they'd bring tents, and they'd camp out in our field and gleam the fields. They'd bring childern and they were delightful people. They'd bring their incalatas (SP). And they'd come to the back door you know with things for us to eat and we can hear them singing and playing guitars and uh...

Plummer: We had ....here from San Bernardino every year.

Dodson: Well that's interesting now no one has told us anything about that at all so were're glad to, to hear that took place.

Boyer: How long would they stay?

Plummer: ...the crop was....

Raney: Week or ten days.

Plummer: They'd pick up the crop you see and uh I had long pole that they'd ...the long trees and then picked them up.

Dodson: Uh, you picked the nuts while they were still on the tree you did't let them fall to ground first?

Plummer: When they'd opened up you see we they were ripe already so we would shake the tree they'd pick them up.

Dodson: Uh, one thing we discovered in talking to uh Mr. Fransico Avila who's ranch former from the Lankershim family was the Jack Lankershim used to pickel walnuts. Have you ever heard of pickeling walnuts?

Pearle: Yes I've heard of it I could't tell you how do it though.

Dodson: Was was it rather a common thing or quite uncommon to...

Pearle: Well I don't know bu but of course I, I don't remember who, who had the walnuts but they were and they tasted very well. Good you know I, I.

Boyer: It's .....

Dodson: You have actualy eaten pickel walnuts.

Pearle: Yes I've .....some pickel walnuts.

Dodson: When I talk about what people think I'm just joking.... We were told that Jack Lankershim would go out to a tree and when he can stick a pin through the green walnut then he knew that was the time that you pick green walnut for pickling. You your self I take it never pickled any of them.

Pearle: No, I just ate the pickles ha ha ha ha. And I don't remember very many that we had very many of them you know just some but I can't remember who, who introduced me to them to me. I mean just uh maybe treated me here's the pickle...so.

Dodson: Well I'm glad to get your testimony incase anybody thinks I'm joking.....

Pearle: I remember pickeled walnuts. ha ha ha

Dodson: Apparently the uh never made much of an impression commercial then since so few people have heard of such a thing. And of course these no such thing for sell at the present time as far as I know. I understand that uh also in the early days in the Valley there were quite a few dairys and chicken ranches. Do you remember those?

Plummer: There were quite a few chicken ranches.

Dodson: Now at the place where our college is I understand there was a dairy. Do you remember a dairy at about the intersection of what's now Burbank and Fulton Avenues or are those streets strange to you?

Plummer: No they were, they were dirt roads in that day except Burbank Blvd. which was paved. But there were business .... in those places.

Raney: And there was a large dairy in what is now called Panorama city.

Dodson: Was that the Chase Dairy?

Raney: .....Is that when it was called the Chase Dairy.

Plummer: ......Sounds familiar.

Raney: There was a really big dairy. It was north of Van Nuys on this rounded street where you before you come in to Sepulveda.

Dodson: Uh huh, we interviewed a Mr. Joseph Chase and if I remember correctly he or his family owned a dairy which must have been about that location. But the dairy which was at the college was not his. Uh, something like chocla or some such name begin with "c" as I recall. And I thought you might possibly remember it.

Plummer: No I don't, no.

Raney: .....

Dodson: Well this sounds like something I'm very anxious to heár about.

Raney: .....Daddy, do you remember at all about the ....disease. You tell him about it.

Dodson: Yes, we'ld very much interested in hearing about this.

Plummer: Well I can't give you much detail about it except we, they had it. Didn't affect us but they just put a.... and everthing just had to.

Boyer: All the dairy...

Plummer: Yes, ...and everthing they could't...

Boyer: It's like a .....

Raney: Yes, they barricaded the roads into the... I can remember that Panorama Ranch Dairy. And then all the roads were barricaded so people could't go in or out.

Boyer: Good grief.

Raney: And they slaughtered scores of animals.

Plummer: Oh.....

Pearle: Just....

Raney: And I they called it the Hoof and Mouth (SP) disease.

Dodson: Yes I've heard that name.....

Raney: Now my husband would probably know whether it was ruthalosis (SP) or whatever they called it. Cause he's knowledgeable in that field. But it was uh it was really devastating thing that happened to the Valley.

Boyer: And they just slaughtered all the animals and buried them there .....

Plummer: .....They did't kill it. No she did't have it.

Boyer: They had a test then? Did they go around the health officials?

Plummer: ....The animals, all the animals got tested.

Boyer: Was this all over the San Fernando Valley?

Plummer: Well it was around our area anyway.

Dodson: Now the animals were burned after they slaughtered them, they did't burned the corpse or something like that?

Pearle: They dug a ditch, put... just put 'em in.... Because I had a friend uh.....had a house out there...ha ha. We're on firm ground because you see they had burned.... Is built over that some of it I don't know how much. There is a lot of there was a lot put in there.

Dodson: I'm just curious to know if anyone would know whether or not any of the animals were buried where about where our college is?

Pearle: I.....

Plummer: .....college there.

Dodson: Uh it's where a dairy used to be at Fulton and Burbank in Van Nuys. It's between uh, Burbank and Oxnard and .....

Raney: Well now is Fulton east or west of Van Nuys Blvd?

Dodson: It be east.

Raney: East O.K. I know I know then where you are. Ya it's Magnolia, Burbank, Oxnard, uh hah O.K.

Dodson: We do know that there was a dairy there and I was just uh interested in knowing whether our college was now located over a place where a lot of the animals might have been buried.

Plummer: .....

Raney: L.A. Creamery, I think that's what . . .I think maybe that's the one that was down on Panorama Vall.. City. But that was uh big thing. And the Qubeders (SP?) had a dairy. Didn't they? Didn't the Qubeders (SP?) have a dairy?

Plummer: They uh not the Qubeders (SP?) that we know but his brother had one.

Raney: Ya, well there Qubeders (SP?) too.

Plummer: Uh huh.

Raney: John Qubeders (SP?).

Plummer: They didn't have very big one....

Raney: Uh.

Dodson: When that was done did, that bankrupted some of those dairies or was there some sort of government recompense for slaughtering the animals?

Plummer: I think there was uh recompense... slaughtering 'em.

Boyer: .....hard on the uh for some who opened a dairy, to to lose all that uh resources of animals ya?

Raney: I haven't thought about that for 50 years ha ha ha..

Dodson: Well.

Plummer: .....I had a cow that milked and I was thankful they didn't they come and inspected her but she was all right they didn't bother..

Boyer: When you were talking about the depression I was just wondering did uh lot of the people were a lot of people effected a lot of the farmers?

Plummer: Oh sure the price of the crop dropped so much..... My beans dropped to 2 cents a pound.

Boyer: Did anybody else stop farming in Valley? Any of your

neighbors or uh?

Plummer: Well I don't know some of them continued but.. some them went broke to.

Raney: I could remember some of my classmates and the grammar school they went to. Went school barefooted. A number of them wore no shoes. ....wouldn't be what you consider a very good cross section uh.

Boyer: ....that many people.

Raney: No.

Dodson: Well I imagine that probably since the Valley was agriculture you'd be better off than in a city community where they'd throw you out of work with just nothing at all to do. I don't suppose there was the same degree of unemployment in the Valley than you would have gotten in a populous area.

Plummer: No because people had to work their ranches, anyway.

Dodson: Uh, huh.

Plummer: ...oat trees, farms or whatever they had, they had to take care of them.

Dodson: Prices got so low that they just couldn't make a decent living.

Plummer: .....

Dodson: Uh, do you recall uh, when the Roosevelt Administration came in whether that Agricultural Adjustment Act helped you?

Plummer: .....

Dodson: Well, of course, in your case you began to teach anyway. But I was wondering what the effect was on others in the Valley.

Plummer: I think it was better. They.....for their prices you know.

Dodson: Do you remember uh, what the roads were like in Valley when you first moved down? Where most of them dirt roads?

Plummer: Yah, there were dirt roads.

Dodson: What would be their effect then in the summer? Was it extremely dusty in the Valley then?

Plummer: A little bit but uh, they sprinkled some..... sprinkler along..... We didn't wait very long till we paved our road.

Dodson: Uh huh.

Plummer: So we had to ... one down to Haskell Street.

Dodson: Uh those were in the days where they had water tank wagons. Wasn't it?

Plummer: Uh huh.

Dodson: And they'd drive those up and down the streets with sprinklers.

Plummer: Yah.

Raney: And we had ice wagons ha ha. Iceman came and delivers ice ha ha. With these refrigerators....ya.....

Boyer: How do they keep the ice out here. That's interesting my uncle used to uh ...ice...

Raney: Oh we have an icehouse in San Fernando.

Boyer: ....

Raney: Big icehouse. They used to make ice.

Boyer: Did they put it in a hay? Well.....

Raney: No I don't think so.

Boyer: .....

Raney: No they had a regular icehouse with water running down over things. Uh huh. Uh huh.

Dodson: Were you thinking of uh of harvesting the ice on frozen lakes or something like that?

Boyer: Oh my uncle did it in Michigan ha ha.

Dodson: Yah.

Raney: .....Montana.

Pearle: ...we put in uh .... Well we have an icehouse but we also.... No no .... sawdust that's all.

Boyer: Sawdust.

Pearle: Yes and uh it would keep all summer. And we were... My

father was the only one who had it. And I used to be provoked to it, I was a little girl and I was provoked come summer time. They want some ice. They were cutting pieces about like this, you see. And, and I thought that was rather strange that they didn't go to. But my father would hire, maybe have three or four men go out and and cut this ice you see. And by the time, oh, it was put in, this ice out kept all summer.

Boyer: Yah.

Pearle: Course it could go down a,little bit.

Boyer: Uh huh.....information.....

Pearle: It was all covered. No, well we never had hay.

Boyer: You didn't have hay? Well yah.

Pearle: We had uh sawdust.

Boyer: Sawdust, that's really something. What where did they get the ice didn't have.....

Raney: Well they did in Montana. Oh ha.....The icehouse here.

Pearle: .....then. Yah..

Boyer: But uh here where they get the ice?

Dodson: We, they made it.

Boyer: They made it.

Dodson: Yes.

Raney: Out of water frozen... ha ha...

Boyer: I've been thinking though. Where did they uh. O.K. where would they freze uh I mean they weren't big block. But they still sold big blocks...

Raney: 50 block, 50-pound blocks, 25-pound blocks. And you had a refrigerator with, uh it was, uh brown wooden.

Boyer: Uh huh.

Raney: And I guess ... stood that high and the door on this side would be enough to hold ice and this side you put your milk and butter and fruit and everything else.

Pearle: .....

Raney: A little ...

Pearle: Where, where I used have to empty it.

Raney: Oh, ha ha....

Pearle: ......

Raney: Oh one thing I can remember, our very first telephone number that I recall was read 119 ha ha... And and it hung on the wall in the kitchen and it was a brown box like so with a mouth piece and a phone uh reciever thing you picked up and put here but it was read 119. And then, then when they took away the the color from it, it was 1193.

Plummer: That's right.....

Dodson: Was that the kind were you had to uh turn the crank....

Raney: I don't remember cranking it. Daddy did we ever crank....

Plummer: The first one yes, the first one did.

Dodson: Can you tell us how that crank business worked? That might be interesting to people hear about that since they've never seen a telephone like that.

Plummer: And everybody else was cranking would just ring you see. Then you give it ...just crank it..... crank on the side of the box.

Pearle: That's where we got all the, the, the, the uh. What's happening in the country....

Dodson: Has everybody listen in on the line ha ha.....

Boyer: ....

Plummer: ......all right.......all right.

Dodson: When you picked up the receiver you didn't crank it, then you'ld get no uh response from central. You'ld had to crank first?

Plummer: ......I was talking. ....there were lines lot of lines were mixed up some....I don't understand.....

Boyer: We used to have fourteen people on one line.

Plummer: Gee...

Boyer: Ha ha ha...

Raney: ....

Boyer: Yah real....ha ha..

Dodson: Well of course I've made a sort of homey situation for.... what was goning on everywhere...ha..

Boyer: You were talking about hoof and mouth disease. And one of the ladies we talked to is talking about she can remember flu epidemic. I believe it was the original flying food epidemic in 1918. And all the people that died in the Valley and so sick. Do you remember any of that?

Plummer: I remember that yes, it didn't ... we we escaped....

Boyer: Your family did.....

Raney: His mother died in the flu epidemic but she died in down at Newport beach Balboa area. And she'd been taking care of people who were ill. And she was 54.

Dodson: Do you have any recollections of it hitting the Valley and uh...fearing about..?

Raney: I was born in 19....ha ha....

Dodson: Well, I'm wondering about your father whether he has any recollections of that. Whether any of his friends died or not because we're hearing so much about that type of flu at the moment.

Plummer: I don't know..... died.

Dodson: It apparently wasn't uh such a strong epidemic in the Valley that it made a great immpression on you that you remember.

Plummer: No I don't think it did.

Dodson: Uh one of the girls who's helping me. And I went out to one of the old Mortuarys in San Fernando. And looked up some of the Mortuary records for 1918 and 1919. We were astonished at just one entry after another died of pneumonia died of flu in that particular year. And it really dramatized for us to to read these death notices. And a number of people that were marked as having died of namonia or flu in 1918, 1919 that particular winter.

Plummer: ....epidemic all right that year. I remember ....escaped we didn't have uh...

Dodson: I happen to read an old account in the Los Angeles newspaper that said that uh at times they had actually ran out of caskets in the city. And that they were having that trouble. Do you remember that?

Pearle: Yes, well .. we didn't have very many.....would allow only the families at, at the funeral. See ....they could't have a assemblage because the families uh. Well they would't allow anybody to go any place. I mean th....you know.

Plummer: Contagious

Boyer: Oh they closed all the ...

Pearle: Now when the.

Boyer: movies

Pearle: Jack uh mother died I was living on in Los Angeles and they brought Mary Lou and uh John. John was older Mary lou was a little baby. And uh they went in to for your mother's funeral and of course uh well there was no you, you told me there wasn't any, any people there only just the family. And uh I know Mary Lou would cry she cried and John would say " Well just give her some milk, just give her some milk, just give her something you know." cause you they were quite a long time before they got there. But that's oh yes we have lot of of uh people in the that died in Los Angeles. And they had a great celebration as a holiday that this was all over you know. Everybody went wild even my father he had a carbuncle on his leg.

Raney: Oh you mean when World WarI was over?

Pearle: Yes oh he would we he got in the car and we go up and down the street.

Dodson: Well were theaters and churches closed and all that sort of thing....?

Pearle: Well they allow, they would't allow uh big assembly or anything. And I remember my husband he, he had to attend several funerals because of people that my husband worked for and they were just uh just very few people there. I would't allow him to go.

Boyer: And did he closed down the schools then to?

Pearle: I don't remember the schools because I didn't have anybody in the schools and I didn't know. I imagined they did.

Boyer: Yes..... probably.

Dodson: Well this rather surprising to me to uh read those records and discover what an epidemic it realy was. Sometimes you uh just read there was an epidemic and it

doesn't mean anything unless you get in to some records and see what really happeded.

Raney: We go every year at Christmas time over to a very quaint little village on the coast named Kiukiss (SP?). It's exit for like over 100 years 110 years maybe now. And there's a beautiful old cemetery right out sitting looking at the water. And you can go through that cemetery and see from the headstones when people died. Like whole (?) families would've caught something and died. You know it was like the flu epidemic or something like that. But uh it it sure tells a story dramatically.

Dodson: We have learned a lot about things like this from talking to the people who actually lived through these experiences much more, to me it's uh made the thing much real then anything I can read in the book. Now the same thing has been true about talking about the earthquakes. Uh where we've had the experiences of people who were actually there during these things. We talked to a number of people for instance who were in San Fernando or Sylmar during that '71 Quake. Were you then in the San Fernando during the '71 Quake? Do you remember that?

Plummer: It seems to me it knocked over a....

Raney: No, in 1971 Quake they lived right on the border of.. between San Fernando and Sylmar. Mother and daddy at that time were an old couple. At that time my mother was quite ill. They were in bed when it hit in the morning. And every piece of furniture in their bedroom... pictures came off the wall, the chairs and chest of drawers. Their bed fortunately was in the middle of the room. It was intact and their one heavy dresser was intact. Everything else was on the floor. And their beautiful old China cups and saucers and practicely all the crystal emptied out of the cupboard. The slimming [sp?].. the wall behind their house collapsed. The neighbor's swimming pool who lived behind them water washed over and into their yard. And I guess it was a really wild experience for them. We couldn't get radio or phone contact with them at all. I was pretty frantic. And it took me about four days before I can get down there going by cirtuitous road and I was really upset. I brought them up here and keep them for about...

Dodson: You were living here in Bakersfield?

Raney: Oh yes, yes we were living here in Bakersfield and I brought them up here. It was an shattering experience for them.

Dodson: What difficulties did you getting from here Bakersfield to San Fernando? What was the condition of the roads

between here and there?

Raney: As you know the road at the North of the San Fernando Valley where you tunnel from the Ridge Route down into the Valley were pretty chew out and I hit.. well I lelf the main road and took that one.. I don't even know what it's called now. And went down the back and by roads and I had to turn off couple of the main one to get where I was going but I knew all, you know eventually I would get there. I knew where I was going. But this is only the last earth quake in their history. Daddy remembered the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco that they felt it in Los Angeles. This was when he was just a boy living on Van Ness and they had big water tanks, you know, they had a windmill and water tank and the whole bit on their property.

Plummer: swoo....water don't...

Dodson: Can you tell us then about that 1906 you felt in Los Angeles?

Plummer: Did we! first we heard the dishes raddled and I said," mamma, what's that?". " it was an earthquake". I looked out my gosh I was right there. See we had a water tank with a windmill.

Dodson: Uh huh.

Plummer: And we lived on Van Ness Avenue and between 3rd and 4th. The water.. the old tank just went that way this water splashed out of the top of th...

Dodson: That's amazing! When the . . .when the quake was centered in San Fransico that we got it that strongly down here.

Raney: Well it was, it was moderate. I'ld say in Los Angeles but ....They knew they had it. And but then again we were in the 1933 earthquake. And it's a very strange coincidence old Ironsides was down at at Long Beach. And mother and daddy got us excused for the day to go fromschool. So we could go down and see old Ironsides and in our car we had I guess about six kids and we'd all gone down. We had delivered our friends and mother said "Lets stop at the store" this was Franklin's and daddy ran in. We were all sitting in the car and all of sudden it was if somebody were jumping up and down on the back end in the bumper. And mother said "Jack stop it" he used to play. Ha Ha..."Jack stop it". And then he see in the store all the stuff can goods and bottles...

Plummer: Falling off of the shelves.

Boyer: .....

Raney: And dad had.... running outside and said,"It's an earthquake".

Dodson: Well now your the first person that you have hit or ...talk to who was in a car at the time or one of these. And I wondered weather you'd feel it in a car?

Raney: I really ...it was a .... And then another uhm thing that happened after that earthquake. We had beautiful peacock. It was part of our farm. And uh the peacock was absolutely out of it's mind. It got up on top of the garage. It flew up on top of the garage and we could not ..... They have a terrible sheirk. And it sheirk for a day and a half. Ha ha..

Dodson: I know they can make a terrible screech when they try to. Uh well..can you tell us anything else about your uh memory of the Long Beach earthquake?

Plummer: No I don't remember....

Raney: I can... Ha ha... One of my father's nephews was killed in the Long Beach earthquake. Which was I believe uh was it March sixth or March tenth somewhere in 1933. And he was going a student at Excelsior High and on the baseball team. And they had had their practice you know like they used to after school. And he and the coach and another kid were coming out of the gym and as they rounded the corner you know all of rococo ginger bready stuff that used to be on some those schools. The corner fell and it killed him and it crushed the coaches leg. And the ear ..the funeral was held several, four five days later. And I can remember sitting in that church in alittle town of Norwalk and while we were there the 45 minutes or what ever it took us. The buliding most have shaken six or eight times. You know gentle quivers aftershocks ....

Dodson: I was going to say didn't that create panic in it's self after major earthquake?

Raney: I think they had had so many aftershocks everyday that you kind of get used to it.

Raney: But you can feel those aftershocks.

Dodson: Of corse we got uh uh considerable number after the Sylmar quake.

Boyer: Oh ya.

Dodson: I don't know that you ever really get used to a major earthquake. Ha ha.

Raney: We've had a few severe earthquakes here in Bakersfield Within a month of each other in 1952 and they call them the Bakersfield Quakes.

Dodson: I seem to remember...

Raney: One was the July 20, and the other was August 21 or August the 19, something like that but a month apart. And one was centered here in Bakersfield and the other one was in Tehachapi. The first one was ...in Tehachapi.

Dodson: I remember hearing about the Tehachapi quake particularly. Did that do much damage in Bakersfield?

Raney: Oh ya, the the old Kern County Land company building where my husband worked was uh they had to put a bondbeam (SP?) in and bring it up to to snuff and they finished the morning of a second earthquake and moved out there scaffolding and all that. So that building stood and that's the building that the built in maybe 1890. This big old red stone brick.

Boyer: This is uh, some people have said that they felt the Tehachapi in San Fernando Valley?

Dodson: Yes I was going to ask.

Raney: I'm sure they did.

Dodson: Did you recall that the Tehachapi quake?

Plummer: Ya, just in bed it didn't shake me off....it did." It was early wasn't it Mary?"

Raney: Yes the Tehachapi quake was early in the morning. Molly was in bed at girlsscout camp amd she was on the top bunk and the bunk fell. Ha ha ha... John was with you we were living on Greenleaf at that time.

Plummer: Ya.

Dodson: Well I rather surprised at what you told me about the San Fransico quake. That was strong enough down here to uh do damage in this area.

Plummer: It did...

Raney: I don't know that it did much damage.

Plummer: It didn't do much damage but all I remember ...I was so impressed ...big old water tank. And water splashing out over the top.

Dodson: Well that would have been quite a bit a movement to cause

water to splash out the tank would say.

Plummer: Well you see ....about forty feet above the ground and on you know water ...it just shook up.....shake some...shake all. My dad was thankful it didn't.

Dodson: Well I've heard some uh amazing things about what the Sylmar Quake did. One lady told us that she had uh sterio or rather large type it just turned it completly over on the floor.

Raney: Ya well you're still on the floor. Your sterio that big thing that's six feet long.....

Plummer: Ya it fell....

Raney: Ya it must have been.

Dodson: And another told me that uh the counter was moved across the floor and blocked the room for instances. It's uh difficult to imagine the tremendous forces that these earthquakes generate.

Boyer: .....California...ha ha..

Raney: One thing.....

Dodson: Well we're hearing about this Palmdale blister that sounds as though something is wrong. You've read about that where we get this up lift of ground in the Palmdale area.

Raney: Auntie lives out on the desert near 29 Palms.

Dodson: That's right.

Raney: Ha ha. Ya between ....

Plummer: ....

Dodson: Well can you tell us about what kind of social life there was in the Valley when you and your wife first moved out? What did you do for uh amusement let's say?

Plummer: People came for a mile or two to call us and welcome us to the Valley. And it wasn't very long till we had a little whist club, we had in that day. We'd meet and have dinner then play whist every couple of weeks.

Boyer: Is that a card game?

Plummer: Uh huh ya, that was...that was a game...wasn't bridge in that day it was just whist. But uh we had several friends around and uh we just went around and started our regular

two weeks. So we enjoyed it.

Pearl: Didn't you have dances?

Plummer: Well they used to have um down at the Improvement Association we'd dance.

Pearl: .....

Raney: At the clubhouse.

Plummer: Uh huh.

Raney: Not to much to.....

Dodson: Uh course you uh were begining to get movies then, they were becoming important. Did you go to many uh movies or did you depend on other things for amusement?

Plummer: I don't think we...to the movies or kind of...I don't remember to many.

Raney: I don't think we went to as many as a family. I think once in a while if there was a movie that was considered good we might have gone up to Renies (SP?). Which is the name of the theater in San Fernando..Renies (SP?). John Renie (SP?) had the movie house. It was pretty fancy place to go.

Dodson: Do you recall what the admission price was?

Raney: No, no I would recall it might be or I would suggest it might be in the neighborhood 25, 35 cents. I don't know...

Dodson: Did you have a piano player an organ to make a ..... to the movies, at that time?

Raney: Oh yes, they used to have uh a lady sit down there in front once in while it was an organ and they used to have vaudeville that was the old vaudeville day. And they'd have men come out and dance or sing or couples or uh.

Raney: Would you like a cup of tea?.....

Boyer: Ha ha..

Dodson: We just asking you about one of the things uh we've been interested in the Valley. That you saw a picture of, now in the picture it was labeled Beale's Cut. But understand it's also called Freemont's Pass. And you do know something about that? Or where it was or what it was?

Raney: I can remmeber the time as a child that Freemont Pass was

a place that people went to see. My brother who was five years older than I and had a horse and I guess sometimes would go with boys from high school or you know they'd take off. And he went up and saw this pass and as I recollect. It was uh uh cut through the mountains and apparently it was a historic site. And in early days the bandits used to go up and get through there and get on out. I don't know where they would go after that but this this was an important place to see. And uh John talked about having gone there. Did you ever go there dad?

Plummer: Un uhn..

Boyer: And you also said your brother went out on the horse....

Raney: Oh, my brother used to go across to what was called the Pacoima Wash and hunt rabbits and uh there were lots of coyetes in that day. And uh it was . . . it was wild country compared to now. And he'd come home, he'd ride this this spirited horse named Jelly. And uh there were three girls in the family and none of us was even allowed in the corral. And we tend to to have more restrictions then John did. I don't know weather it's because he was older because they didn't want me to do something that Kathren might want to do and she was 4 years younger yet.

Boyer: Or do you think it was the the .....family .... double standards when it comes to..

Raney: Boys and girls.

Boyer: Boys and girls.....

Raney: No I don't know we really had a wonderful childhood and life as I recall. In first place we lived out out in the country. And I went to high school all the kids used to love to come to our house because they knew they'd be welcomed. And we had a tennis court and we had this big orchard and they used to call and they'd say " can we bring down some some ice and uh some hotdogs and have a wieny roast and make ice cream" and we'd go out in the orchard and we'd have a ball.

Boyer: How nice, ya...

Raney: And I can remember at least once a year I had a party for all my friends and there'd be like 20, 25 kids there. And we'd dance and we'd have mask parade and Halloween parties and we'd move out all the furniture and bring in bails of hay. And once we even put chickens in the corner you know, little baby chickens in the corner. No, you had a beautiful life as children. I can't ...

Plummer: .....

Boyer: Oh did you have cows?

Plummer: Ya we had one cow.

Boyer: Oh did you make your own uh cream?

Plummer: .....

Boyer: And did you ever make butter?

Plummer: .....I made butter, ya.

Boyer: Oh you made butter. Oh thats sounds good.

Pearl: He made ice cream.

Plummer: You know how....ice cream. How I can turn it! We had arbor with Concord grapes.

Boyer: Did you ever make any wine?

Plummer: I tried it but it turned into vineger.

Boyer: Ha ha.....

Plummer: Ha ha....

Boyer: I bet.. it used to be ice cream socials and stuff at the church?

Plummer: I didn't relize how to make wine so I, I was going to make it so put it down in the basement. And they would tasted so good. I after about coup.. a week or so it taste as though it was so sour.

Boyer: Ha ha....

Plummer: I never tried it again ha ha...

Boyer: We hear a lot about Prohibition in the Valley and how people had stills and everthing. DId you know anybody with stills or?

Plummer: Ya I knew a couple of people that had stills but I didn't. I wasn't interested in those.

Raney: .....

Boyer: Ha ha...Ok.

Dodson: Was there much...

Boyer: Worried about that..

Dodson: Would you say there was much of that in the Valley during Prohibition days. Much bootlegging?

Plummer: .....I think there was, Yes. Just like it was any place else. Course we were never much drinkers so I wasn't interested in it.

Boyer: Ahh ha..

Dodson: Well I think many people did probably uh make their own wine in those days. Even though they didn't go in for harder liquor. Maybe you remember something about those days?

Raney: Ya, I uh have a few things to tell you. My parents were really lawabiding citizens. And during the time of Prohibition there was absolutely nothing to do with anything alcoholic. And I can remember once that my dad came in and one of the Italian small farmers up on the hill named Bonfegleo (SP?) had given dad a bottle of wine and it looked, it was you know like a half gallon bottle. It was sort of red and and musk looking and I remember mother and daddy talking about it and they decided they had to dump it out. And they dumped it out. And I was just a kid but I thought gee I don't ...what to do.

Boyer: Ha ha....

Raney: And I would think so more even now but at that time I just didn't know. But I knew that they dumped out ... of wine that somebody had given to them.

Boyer: Ah huh.

Raney: But I know they were a lot of stills because daddy was farming on the side for Mr. Alicen and he was growing mint. Right?

Plummer: Ah huh.

Raney: And he had still. And it was a legitimate still to extract mint. Syrup of mint or essence of mint or what ever it was. And word got around to the authorities that Jack Plummer had a still and they came in there ready to crash it.

Plummer: Ya.

Raney: Right?

Plummer: Ah huh.

Raney: And I haven't thought of that for.....years.

Plummer: .....

Boyer: .... And they didn't find anything, right ha ha.

Dodson: And that reminds me that I had wanted to ask you because you had mention growing mint. And I was going to ask whether there was a market for mint just what you were doing with it.

Boyer: Ha ha.

Raney: I really don't know I have no idea. All I know is that I heard this story from when I was a kid that that officers are authorities wanted to crash that still so must have been stills all over the place that investigated.

Boyer: We heard that there were people coming out of the invest... investigatedors from the government coming out going on the property all over the Valley to look for stills.

Raney: Ah huh.

Boyer: Give them something to do, ha ha.

Plummer: I was told I can make money if I grew mint and I planted some of it but it didn't pay me much I got I got my money out of it thats all.

Dodson: Do you recall who you sold it to and what it was used for?

Plummer: No, I never knew.

Dodson: I believe it is possible to make a mint jelly isn't it?

Raney: Oh sure essence of mint pepermint syrup and...

Boyer: Tea..

Raney: And a..

Boyer: Tea is ...used in medicine...sometimes.

Raney: Well I have mint leaves in there and my spice and herbs closet.

Dodson: It's just this is the first time that anyone had mention to us growing mint in the Valley and that's why I was interested. Everytime we hear something new we ask about that, pick it up and want to know how that was used and what for. But you say it didn't pay to keep that up then growing that?

Plummer: Some doctor bought it from me. I don't know what he did with it

Dodson: Can you tell us about anything about the religious life in the Valley? What church did you belong to? Where was it located?

Plummer: A church in San Fernando.

Dodson: Do you recall the name of the rector?

Plummer: Oh, I did know it but I can't recall it now.

Raney: By Champman was the name of the chaplin that buried Betty. But that was in 1935. So that isn't a very early day.

Plummer: Baker, P. E. He used to be on South Flower St. before it reached Pico.

Boyer: (garbled)

Plummer: Baker, P.E. married Mom and me.

Dodson: Where was the Episcopal Church located in San Fernando?

Raney: Saint Simmions (SP?) on McClay.

Plummer: I think so.

Raney: It was a gray stone building, a lovely little church,not very big, with lovely stained glass windows. But as I told you earlier, we attended quite regularly the little church in Mission Acres. And this was all of the neighbors gathering around. It was what you call non denominational. We had booklets you worked from. And they had standard barriers, which my brother called "stranded barriers".

Boyer: Ha, ha.

Raney: You know, it was a regular community church.

Boyer And they had social functions from the church, too, you said?

Raney: The church was held in the club house that daddy was talking about. It was called the improvement association and the community church was held in that building. I suppose they have lot of churches around it today. but that was the church in the early days.

Boyer : Is it still standing today?

Raney: I think the club house is still standing. The last time . . .

Pearle: "In the little circle right off Parthenia . .

Raney: When mother and daddy went out to the Valley in 1913, there were very sparsely populated and the first people who came to call on them were Chinese. There was a Chinese camp a couple miles further west and a little north so I would guess it would be up where like Lassen Street is. And these China men came down to call on the new bride and groom a single file and brought gifts. And this was when mother and daddy first went out to the Valley. Now when they first went out the house was under contruction and was not completed for three or four months as I understand it. And they had a beautiful big two story barn with animals down below and the top was all finished off. And they lived upstairs in the top of their barn untill our house was finished and the they were still there when these Chinese came to call on them. and so there probably among there very closest neighbors were these Chinese there was this Chinese camp. Now has anybody ever mention that to you.

Boyer: No.

Dodson: We have uh come across only one person who knew any of the early Chinese residence.

Raney: Uh huh.

Dodson: And we've tried to contact him and have been on a....

Raney: One of 'em was Jewjoe (SP?).

Dodson: Jewjoe (SP?).....

Raney: Grandpa had has all ways talked about a Jewjoe (SP?) who was one of the early wasn't he the one that said "split 'em, up pack 'em,..

Plummer: Ya.

Raney: Roll 'em up", ha ha..

Dodson: What work were the Chinese doing at that time?

Raney: Were they farmming?

Plummer: They did farmming. They grew certain crops I don't know .... maybe. I always wondered whether grew illegal things I don't know.

Dodson: Ha ha...

Boyer: Ha ha....

Plummer: I never did know.

Dodson: Did they come in originally to work on the railroad. Is that what brought them in originally?

Plummer: They have worked yes on the railroad. They were brought in to work on the railroad so when they went across you know when they joined the...

Dodson: When the Southern Pacific was building down that way.

Plummer: Across the country, ya.

Dodson: I see then when they stayed were they permitted to buy land in the Valley? For a while later I think there were exclusion laws forbidding people perhaps.

Plummer: .....So they could buy it later uh huh.

Dodson: Now we haven't uh run across any references to parts of the Valley owned by Chinese. Can you tell us any thing about that where they were any what sort of uh holding they possesed. Do you recall any detail about that?

Plummer: That Chinese.....in San Fernando.

Raney: But who?

Plummer: They owned that proporty .....San Fernando.

Raney: Oh thats much later daddy.

Plummer: Ya.

Raney: Much later. Uhm the only Chinese family that I knew when I was a child was the Woo family, Woo and there were uh twelve children in the family and they were a remarkably public spirited group. They had, they owned there own small grocery store in San Fernando so they could buy bread, and meat, and beans or anything else whole sale I gather.

Boyer: UH huh.

Raney: And they always had two or three cars and the kids would go to school in San Fernando. But when my dad would be collecting for Community Chest or something like this in the early days and and maybe during the depression years when lots of people didn't have it they could always figure that Mr. Woo would give the money.

Dodson: I see....

Raney: And they grew asparagus cause they used to bring us asparagus. They were marvelous neighbors.

Boyer: And they had a store you said?

Raney: And they had a small grocery store in San Fernando and there was Willie and Lillie, ha ha.. Roy and just and the last two were twins and the mother they had a big house three story house, sqaure.

Boyer: Wow.

Raney: Basement floor first floor up and all of them were completely filled with rooms and furnished not fancy.

Boyer: ...

Raney: But when the last two were born they were twins and that mother continued with her tiny little feet to go out and work in the fields.

Boyer: ....

Raney: Her feet.. I don't know if they had been... but she had the smallest feet I have ever seen.

Pearle ....

Raney: And she had on each side a baby. Ha ha. And they were well to do.

Pearle: Uh huh.

Boyer: Ha ha..

Pearle: Who was it that your mother uh uh appreciated...

Raney: Oh preach the sermon. That was for one of the uh, oh it was for one of what's her name, you know uh.. My mother conducted a funeral service for a baby.

Pearle: ....

Raney: All right, ya o.k.

Plummer: ...who it was

Raney: O.K. I know exactly who it is and I've got...

Pearle: You mean uh...

Raney: And she had a hair... beauty parlor for a long time it was her little sister.

Boyer: Oh....

Raney: .....

Dodson: Was your uh mother uh a minister uh or something?...

Raney: No, no, no, no, no, what my mother had a way with words and she was a very outgoing women and she be... everybody. The poor, the sickly uh she was a very charming women and uh Hortents and Jerry Jerwitts (SP?) but it was that was not the name of the family cause that was her maiden name.

Plummer: We have 62 year and three months together.

Dodson: Is that right.

Plummer: Uh huh.

Raney; ....

Boyer: ....

Plummer: I took...

Raney: But she took her...

Plummer: She was gone in two hours.

Raney: Mother took, mother took her book of common prayer Episcopal church and read the little burial service and the family was forever and after greatful. But I can remember you used to give are old clothes and they were very poor family.

Boyer: Was that ...

Raney: It was Hortents (SP?) little sister.

Dodson: Speaking of a Chinese uh do you recall were there any minority problems was there opposition to Chinese or other persons moving into the Valley who were not of Anglo decent at that time. Do you recall anything like that?

Raney: No I can not recall any strife in grammar school uh there was a Mexican and there was a Japanese in my class.... nine kids. Uh when we went to San Fernando High School in high school there was no segregation and there were there's a great Mexican population in San Fernando and always has been. And there was no problem what so ever there were two whight grammar schools, Moring Side and and Olmelvaney (SP?). Now you see I lived out in the country I didn't go there but all these were my friends

when I did go to high school. Then they had a Mexican grammar school and it was a lovely big red brick building and it was over in what we called Mexican town. Which was now to the, to the west and north part of town.

Dodson: Uh huh.

Raney: Of the central part just right straight out. And uh they had their own school but if they were good kids they were accepted and they were leaders and they were football players and they were basketball and I, I can't recall that we had any problem. I think they were not as uh I don't know what the word is to use. I think they accepted more what came to them and they had an easy pleasant happy attitude were as today I think so many of the of the Chicano's what more because they see the lack of gotton more and I think their fighting more for their rights then they ever did. I think they accepted very well what they had. You know and they weren't fighting anybody. No they were lovely people.

Boyer: .....

Plummer: I talked to her a couple of days....

Raney: ...You first started.

Plummer: ..I first started.

Dodson: Do you recall uh what sort of students they were?

Plummer: Oh they were very orderly very good.

Dodson: Uh speaking of the Chinese was there any sort of opposition to them because they were Chinese, because they seem to be different then most people in the Valley?

Raney: I don't think so, no, no. I think that the Chinese and the Japanase as well tend to be exceptionally good students because they tried hard.

Dodson: Uh huh.

Raney: And they wanted to excel and I, I don't, I think, I can remember Roy Woo used to duff (SP?) off but he was only one and everyone loved him he had such a nice personality. And my brother always hated to get up in time to catch the school bus so almost invariably he rode with the Woo's to school. Do you remember that.

Boyer: Ha ha..

Plummer: Ha ha..

Raney: He stay in bed longer.

Boyer: Ya right...

Dodson: Well this sort of in mind with what others have told us. Apparently the Valley never had the sort of agitations then that some other sections may have had.

Boyer: All so... talking about minorities or groups other groups of people. Uh some of the people we've talked to mentioned that there were gypsies in the Valley that we come in and camp around. Do you remember any of those? Maybe you do this would be in the early 1900's.

Plummer: I remember some used to come from from what part is it out there beyond Azusa what that town they would come out every year to pick wallnuts.

Raney: Out ... gypsies those were Mexicans.

Plummer: Ya but....

Raney: They weren't gypsies.

Plummer: Maybe not I don't I guess no gypsies... had anything to do with it gypsies.

Boyer: .....She had lived over in the North Hollywood area and said she had, she'd lived in the North Hollywood area and she had said that they used to gypsies that would come and camp out.

Plummer: I heard that too.

Boyer: You heard that ya.

Plummer: But I never had any .....

Dodson: There must not have been very many than or you probably would of uh.

Boyer: There might have been on a....

Dodson: Have heard of them.

Plummer: I have Mexicans would come from San Bernardino to pick wallnuts for me.

Boyer: Ya, that's a long...

Plummer: And they'd come and pile beans for me.

Boyer: Uh huh....

Plummer: .....the little camps.... We had water....fresh water and uh they had their water and plenty of wood so. He was just a help to me.

Dodson: Do you recall World War I in the Valley that was evidently a short after you moved into the Valley. You were not drafted or anything like that in that uh War then?

Plummer: I uh I was called and I went on a Thursday will never forget. .....is pregnant with our first child and I went and reported. And uh ....nurse says "What are you doing" I says growing babies says "You says you don't have any business here we need beans ...more than we need soldiers".

Boyer: Ha ha....

Plummer: .....As far as I got ha ha.... ....moma I didn't have to go.

Boyer: Went back to grow beans right? Ha ha..

Plummer: Grow more beans, ha ha.

Boyer: Ha ha...

Dodson: Do you remember what sort of uh excitement there was when you got the news of the armistice on November 11, 1918?

Plummer: No we were I think we heard it about 11... after 11 it came over the radio they annouce there have been a..... oh were we delighted.

Boyer: ....You were telling us ....people... had parties and uh?

Pearle: ..... We had friends that night and we it's Sunday night I guess it was. And they went home and uh I don't uh .... I don't believe we had any radios then. Anyway they called us and said that..... went to there place down near ...Poly. And uh they said that "The War's over". We heard it on the way see on the.... So then the next day oh everything went wild everything went wild.

Plummer: Don't you remember ....

Raney: ...

Dodson: No I wasn't in this area at that time so uh I wouldn't have re.....

Pearle: ....

Dodson: Yes uh, ha...

Raney: ......

Dodson: Little bit so I was wondering who it had impressed you people who uh who were here at the time?

Plummer: We were delighted, we were delighted when it was all over with.

Dodson: I uh was here when the news of the World War II ending came at the time of the German surrender and the Japanase surrender. Well I my remember the Japanase surrender paticularly. You were living in the Valley at that time I suppose?

Plummer: Ya.

Dodson: Do you have any paticular recollections of that? Of how it impressed you and what went on your imitiatly.

Plummer: We were just thankful that it was over with.

Boyer: Were there was there a large uh group of uh Japanase living in the Valley. Do you remember any of the encampment of the Japanase? Or..

Plummer: ....But they send 'em all north you know.

Boyer: Did they.

Plummer: Uh huh..

Boyer: Out of this area they send them north to...

Pearle: In camps..

Boyer: In camps..

Dodson: Uh do you remember when the news of Pearl Harbor came exactly how the Valley recieved it? That would have been on a Sunday.

Plummer: I don't remember..

Boyer: You don't remember?

Plummer: The attack on Pearl..

Raney: OH I can remember...

Plummer; That was the attack on Pearl Harbor...we were... oh boy.

Boyer: Ha ha... They were pretty scared somewhat in the Valley and in L.A. were they. They were afraid that possibly

the plans could come...

Raney: ..... and everything, daddy.

PLummer: Oh sure black outs .....

Raney: Black curtains...

Boyer: Black curtains.. were they ...did they have...

Raney: Did they have pull the shades down over the windows at night? Now I can remember tring to go south with our little gas.

Boyer: Uh huh..

Raney: To go and visit home. We lived in northern California.

Boyer: Uh huh...

Raney: And uh we drove along the coast road and you couldn't see anything they were not enough lights to drive after night.

Plummer: No..

Dodson: Well they were much more paticular right along the coast then alittle farther inward, I think.

Raney: My yes, yes.. What we have an interesting situation here. We have just charmming Japanase neighbors.

Boyer: Uh huh..

Raney: Who are good friends of ours and have been and who lived here. The daughter who came to see me last week was born here and she's 58 years old. Right on Garnsey Ave. (SP?). There're highly respected in this town Kanousha everybody called them Kenasheda family (SP?). And there are three of them right down the street here. And you came right by their neat houses. Originally their father who's born in Japan farmed this whole area. And he used to grow the most gorgeous big strawberry here and they grew asparagus, and uh all sorts of struck crops. And when the War came because he had been born in Japan and he had been back to visit his family in Japan the year prior. He was suspect.

Boyer: Oh..

Raney: And he was hauled off before anybody else uh into a camp for interrogation. And then he was really hauled away. Then all the rest of the girls and his wife and the wives of of the boys were taken to relocation camp.

Boyer: What happened to their land...

Raney: And the two young men, Japanese boys fought for the United States Army. One of 'em was in that crack division that Italy. And they were fighting soliders and their families were all in interned and it, and they were never better. The little old man Kenasheda (SP?) whom I love his name was Comatero (SP?). I asked him once "I said didn't you ever resent how you were treated." and he said "No, I have nothing but love and gratitude for this country, it has done well by me."

Pearle: .....

Raney: And I thought it's a rare attitude for someone that was treated as he was.

Boyer: Certainly..

Raney: You know.

Dodson: Mr. Plummer I uh understand that you had some uh interesting events happen when you lived over in Los Angeles. Can you tell us a little about those?

Plummer: Well my mother used to raise turkeys and for Thanksgiving and Christmas people would come up from West Adams Street and all over. And they'd send a postcard that they would be there for a turkey. Some of them wanted them dressed and of wanted them alive. Well it was my job to herd turkey when I was a kid. When I drive them down along the wash it was just wash and then, see the streets weren't uh put in just Pork Street was in. And beyound that it was just wash down there and I'd herd the turkeys up there and I know the.... I saw the cutest little yellow dog just trotting along aside the wash and I had ... my father told me keep the turkeys anyway 50 feet from the wash Johnny. So I was keeping them out there but there was this cute little dog just right along .. as the turkey went along grazing they go along grazing you know, picking up barley and so forth. All at once he made a break and grabbed a turkey. Darn I thought that was a coyote. Well I drove the turkeys home quickley and told my dad what had happened. Well he said "Why didn't you keep it away." Well I said, " They were keep away, but he got out and got it." Well he said, "Take me show me that." So I, I took him I took him down to where the coyote eaten what he wanted of the turkey and left the bottom rest. In the bottom, on the wash and he put some stricken line some kind of poision there but the coyote never came back for it so we just buried the turkey.

Dodson: Were turkeys a little difficult to herd and do anything for?

Plummer: No they were easy, very easy. They just stayed at the flock together you know.

Dodson: I was just reading an article about turkeys that uh where the owners said they were about the dumbest fowls that he'd ever come across even though he raised them. Ha ha..

Raney: Even dumber through the years. Uh dad tell them about the cattle that used to graze either side of Wilshire Blvd. as you went further on out west from where you lived. With barbed wire and stuff.

Plummer: Ou! Yes they just grazed, cattle you gallare just all kinds of cattle they just turned out in the pasture and there they were.

Dodson: Now about what year would this have been, that the cattle were grazing along the side....?

Plummer: .....

Dodson: Is that right even that late Wilshire was uh rural area?

Plummer: ....Wagon road.

Pearle: ....When we came..... Wilshire Blvd. was just a....

Plummer: Just a dirt road.

Pearle: Dirt road ya there wasn't nother much out there.

Plummer: We went on Sixth Street.

Pearle: Uh huh..

Dodson: Well I suppose since you've been here there been a great many changes in the Valley. What you regard as the greatest change that has occurred since you've been here?

Plummer: Well annexation and Los Angeles and getting the water.

Dodson: You think it was the water that uh caused the annexation desire to get in on the water?

Plummer: That exactly why we wanted to get in. We voted on it.

Dodson: That's what I understand I can imagine there was probably quite of bit of difference of opinion wasn't there on whether to join the city?

Plummer: There were some people yes that were opposed but they went overwhelming in favor of annexation.

Dodson: And I understand that at the time there were several

independent towns, such as Owensmouth and Mariam places like that. That voted separatly to join and joined at different times. The whole Valley didn't come in at once. Is that your recollection?

Plummer: No I don't remember that way. It seems to be that we went at once.

Boyer: After you joined uh Los Angeles annexature. What was some of the changes that happened?

Plummer: The what?

Boyer: Some of changes. What happened to the Valley after you joined L.A.?

Plummer: Oh..

Dodson: Was there change in taxes? Did they go up or anything like that?

Plummer: Not very much , no I couldn't remember they went up very much.

Boyer: Did the, what about the streets. Did they pave some of the streets or uh? How, how did you get the water from L.A. did they start laying pipe lines?

Plummer: Oh, we had a pipe already laied but uh they laid pipe more pipe every place.

Boyer: Uh huh..

Dodson: Before that time you were dependent on the water that was actually produced in the Valley from springs and wells?

Plummer: I think so.

Dodson: So really the Valley couldn't have supported a much larger population without the annexation.

Plummer: ....

Raney: Did you tell 'em how many people were in the Valley when you went out there daddy?

Plummer: I think about there was about 13 to 20 thousand people including Burbank, San Fernando, Chatsworth, Canoga Park, Reseda, Van Nuys, and Lankershime it was down in North Hollywood.

Raney: About 13 or 14..

Plummer; 13 or 14...thousand people..

Dodson: I think with the Valley estimated now having about 1 million.

Plummer: More than that I think... million.

Dodson: I expect that it does have more than that, Yes. I noticed there's a movemnt now to try to take the Valley out from Los Angeles again. Make it idependent again.

Plummer: I never that..

Dodson: Uh Senator Robbins..

Raney: San Fernando never, San Fernando never uh has been part of the city of Los Angeles I don't think.

Dodson: No, no, it still a completely independent town.

Raney: Makes you proud ha ha...

Dodson: No I think it's the only part the Valley unless we consider Burbank part of the Valley. And that of course is independent to. But there is a little aggutaion at the present time I don't know how wide spread it is....

Dodson: Paula, I think you said you had a question you wanted to ask.

Raney: .....Or information.

Boyer: Well two of the things I was interested. One uh we've heard some talk about a flood that went down the Tujunga wash. I don't know if you remember that or I think it was in 37.

Raney: Yes I remember.

Dodson: Can you tell us a little about what happened there, your recollection?

Raney: One of the times I refered to earlier that I could not go home because the water was running so high and at that time I can remember the water ran down and made uh sort of uh like a small gorge in daddy walnut orchard. It was between trees. It can take out any trees.

Boyer: ....Ha ha....

Raney: But it and after this is when they started all the talk about flood control projects. But before that the water come wild you got it.

Pearl: .....

Plummer: .....

Raney: Uh huh.

Boyer: ...Any damages on your neighborhood in Mission Acres other than?

Plummer: Well it just washed out.

Raney: They sandbagged.

Boyer: They sandbagged everything?

Plummer: Just washed out and I took my plow, and plowed it back in.

Boyer: Hh huh.

Raney: But it was a deluge and I can remember when after that uh that to get to school uh... occasionally when it rained ....hard (This is when we were in grammar school) daddy would get the horses and a wagon a take us and the neighbors kids down to grammar school.

Pearl: Ha ha

Raney: Cause we could get on the main on the.. Sepulveda Blvd.

Plummer: Too much water...

Raney: **We go down Haskell. Oh it's fun.**

Boyer: Ha ha...I bet it was.

Dodson: Well now was that caused just by excesive rain or did you have a damn burst or something like that. Do you recall just what caused the flud.

Plummer: Heavy rain..

Dodson: Someone had said something to me that made me think a dam had burst although I hadn't heard that before.

Raney: 1927.....

Dodson: Yes but now wasn't....

Raney: That was in San Fransico?

Dodson: Yes that did not cause a flood in our Valley did it?

Raney: No.

Plummer: No.

Raney: But many of the children that came from Cal State went to San fernando High School. And they were in my brothers class and I know that there were two drownings of students that were in John's class. And daddy went.. it was a realy big thing and everybody was gathering blankets and food and uh they were evacuating so of the people down into San Fernando. I think they stayed like at the Elks Club and the different places that kept people.

Dodson: It's my understanding that the water turned west rather than coming down into the Valley south.

Raney: .....Is now.

Pearl: We were at the Cycro's (SP?) that night. The Smiths and us and somebody else for a party. And oh .....so then we started to go ho
. me well then I guess clouds started up he came back and he says," You can't make it". And so we had to..we had to stay all night.. all night at Cycro's (SP?).

Raney: Uh huh.

Pearl: Because we uh couldn't make it. The water was too deep and and there was a woman lost that night. And her automobile went down....into the water.

Dodson: So the thing that caused the flood in Van Nuys then was really just excessive rainfall. There wasn't any dam bursting on that.

Raney: A thing like that.

Raney: No but periodically and I can remember another time when there was heavy rainfall. We were going over to Glen...Was it the Glendale Auditorium to hear the Mills Brothers. This is like 1936 or 7 and uh on a Sunday afternoon and we couldn't take our usual route we had to go to a by a circuitous route to get there. Cause the main roads were all blocked and fortunately we lived there long enough and daddy knew which were the high rowtes, ha ha.. We'd take em.

Boyer: You were talking about going over to the the Glendale Auditorium, you said?

Raney: Ya.

Boyer: To see to the Mills Brothers. What uh did, ...what people go very much to the beach then? Was that a big event... from the Valley did people go in the early days?

Raney: We went occasionally to the beach because my grandfather

lived at the beach.

Boyer: Oh uh huh.

Raney: And uh so we would have our vacation in the summer and we'd take one of the cottages down at Balboa and stay. When daddy wasn't to busy farming. Uh when we were in high school it the kids used to peri...not as much as they do now but like on uh on uh Saturday they might if anybody had a car. And this like 1934, 35 would gather stuff and we'd built a fire down at Santa Monica or somewhere and have a wieny roast. But I didn't do this very much. I think I was more shelter than some, but I know some of the kids did.

Boyer: Did anybody ever use horses and buggies, back in the early 1900's.

Plummer: We went to uh...we went to what's now Venice. ....The horse buggy and one time I hadn't my cousin and ...lived down at uh Delt... No it uh where were that where they lived dear Del Ray no it was. Where was that where .....?

Raney: Oh cousins.oh your mother's cousin. Uh Culver City.

Plummer: Culver City. So we drove the horse and buggy on down there one time but Lord it was just too far ha ha.

Raney: Uh daddy can remember going to the first air show in Compton in 1910. He can also remembers going down to see Barny Oldfieldrace (SP?) in Santa Monica.

Plummer: Remember that?

Raney: Ha ha ha.

Dodson: Well I'm afraid I don't remember that myself ha ha ha...

Plummer: .....They were gone.

Boyer: That was the big race track they used have down there, right? They had great big one down there.

Raney: But to to something like this they'd get on the red car. The red trolley and go. Those red trolleys and they used to go to the beach they'd go all the way to Balboa on the red trolley.... From Los Angeles.

Boyer: Well that's what one Lankershim used to be.....

Plummer: Good old days are gone now ha ha....

Boyer:- Ha ha ya....that would have been something.

Dodson: Well we found that everyone we interviewed looks back on the Red Cars with regret that they're no longer there. I haven't found a soul that is..... It's a, it is a misfortune that apparently not enough people thought that they could do without and continued to make a profit.

Plummer: They went to.. gasoline to automobiles..

Dodson: Uh huh.

Pearl: They wanted to put on the the buses and the gasoline. That's what that caused that.

Dodson: I think that had a .....to do with it....

Plummer: .....

Pearl: .....Tore up the tracks.

Dodson: Yes, yes I can remember when they were discontinued. It seemed that men were out the very next day, after they got permission to discontinue, tearing up tracks just to be sure they never have to run anymore cars. That's one time I never saw so much efficiency. That's tearing up those tracks.

Pearl: .....

Dodson: Well I think that there was some suspicion that uh one of the manufactures of buses was all so mixed up in it, wanting to sell buses.

Boyer: Ha ha...I wanted to ask also about the movies. Was there any filming in the Valley in the early days....

Raney: Most all the cowboy movies were filmed out in Chatsworth in those rocks. Don't you know the west end of the Valley it's so rocky.

Boyer: It was .....

Raney: Ya ya and uh many of the cowboy movies. We used to see in the early days uh Clark Gable and Myrtle Loy and al.... And we thought nothing of it they ... one of them got gas where we got gas little old station and we were just taught ordinary normal people. Now I know that some of my friends or people who've come from out of the state were greatly impressed and I couldn't understand what they were so excited about.....it was just another person ha ha..... But huh they lived in .....and they had little..small ranches when the Valley was more wide open.

Boyer: .....Like Warner Brothers has been in the Valley for great number of years hasn't it?

Raney: I think so. I think there're several down by Studio City and all...

Boyer: Studio....

Raney: But.....I really was never all excited about it. And I know I was a rare bird, most of them probably were.

Dodson: Well Universal I think has been here since 1915 in the Valley. I don't know whether that's the oldest one in the Valley its self or not.

Raney: You know what I'd like to do Dr. Dodson, is have...spend another afternoon with you and instead of you questioning us I'd like to question you ha ha... I think...

Dodson: Well.

Raney: It would be interesting to find out all the things you know.

Dodson: Well the trouble is that I don't know very much about the Valley. I'm still learning where the Valley is concerned. I don't usually publicize it but I happen to be a major in the European History ha ha....

Raney: Really that's interesting.

Dodson: So you see uh I can't answer very many questions about the Valley but I'm learning a few.

Raney: .....Do you have source, you have a good library uh of things down there?

Dodson: We uh .... are building up a library in it. I don't know that we've had so much but we are collecting things...

Boyer: One of the Jackson Mayers who just recently published a large book and a thorough book about the Valley happens to be one of the professors at Valley College.

Raney: Uh huh.

Boyer: And he has a lot of information. And of course hopefully we'll..he s....said we can have his notes for all his writtings for our collection too, which would be nice.

Raney: Well I wish I still had them but one of the things that I did. Mother and dad had the Southern California Historical Society Quarterlies and I had a stack of 'em fully that high you know. And I gave 'em all to Cal State Bakersfield Library. Because I thought I could..... all these there no sense in keeping somebody should have 'em ..... them.

Boyer: .....Well that's...

Raney: And so I gave him out there.

Boyer: We hope that there was ..... catalogue.....for anybody. And .....we build our library .... books.

Raney: Ya....

Plummer: Which was your home state?

Dodson: Colorado.

Plummer: Oh, Colorado.

Dodson: I'm from Colorado. And I moved to California in 1945. So I don't exactly qualify as pioneer, you can see.

Plummer: Mom and I toured the U.S. in 1948. We bought a new car and started out. It's the first night in Banning then you went on down to Arizona and up ..... stopped near Denver Colorado. Then drove on east and we got to .....Dubuque Iowa.....cemetery to decarate and .... And I said .... "I'll stay in the car, honey, you go ahead." and we had the flowers and she took them over there and uh well she was .....kicking off me ..... so she knows where she going to put flowers. The guard came and he says "What's going on here!"

Boyer: Ha ha...

Plummer: I says what do you mean? He said "what's that women doing do....down there?" Why he says "why do you ask?" or he said "too many people here to bury ..... I said "you flatter me".

Boyer: Ha ha..

Raney: That's not pertinet story but that's daddy's favorite story.

Boyer: Ha ha.

Raney: O.K. ...he doesn't want to know about your trip around the United States ha ha.

Plummer: Ohhh..

Boyer: That was quite a big trip at that time though wasn't it?

Plummer: Huh..

Boyer: That was quite a big a big trip at that time though...?

Plummer: Oh went 15,000 miles before we got back. We went to the Atlantic Ocean from Boston clear, on out. Mary Baker Eddy's original church we attended there....

Pearl: Didn't make much of an inpression...

Raney: Daddy.....

Dodson: Ha ha..

Raney: We should let Dr. Dodson take care of his business. He's got a long way to go.... and I still do and we're off the subject.

Dodson: I'm wondering if there anything that happened in the history of the Valley that you thought that was especially bad or a misfortune for the Valley or something like that? Do you recall anything that uh that you regarded as a special disaster more than any other one thing?

Plummer: No, I can't think of anything that was overlooked. Of course we had the earthqaukes but they happened everywhere.

Dodson: You felt that the Valley made a pretty good recovery from its earthqaukes, that they didn't have any lasting effect of any kind. And that would be true of floods also? And apparently the Depression didn't hit quite as hard in the Valley from what I'm beable to find out as it did in a Herben Centers (SP?) in the cities.

Plummer: Well that tha..I think that's right.

Dodson: People have told me for instance there were no bread lines in the Valley or anything like that we read about elsewhere in the country.

Plummer: We farmers kept on.....doing our farming course our crop ... dropped to two cents a pound.

Pearl: .....Before that.

Plummer: Ya before I planted the .....

Dodson: Could you tell us about any of the uh important families or uh families prominent in the Valley that you happen to have in contact with? Your impression of them?

Plummer: Well it's been so long ago I forget, you know.

Raney: We used to go up to San Fernando and mother and you went to some of the parties at the Dazies (SP?) and the Flynns and the Portors (SP?) had. And I think mother and dad

didn't have as much to do with at that point. They were struggling and he was rather a small farmer and they had little childern an.. They probably didn't have as social a life much of thier social life was build around thier lodges and things. But I can remember going the first time I ever had anything drink I had a a mint julep in the Dazies (SP?) backyard was the day I was sixteen and that was a really big occasion. And then San Fernando always has for year and years and years has had a big fiesta...

Dodson: I was going to ask about that.

Raney: Ya and that that was an occasion too with parades and everybody dressing up in Spanish type garb.

Boyer: When did they have that?

Raney: In June it used to be and I don't know when it is now.

Dodson: Do they still have it at all or has it been discontinued?

Raney: Oh I think so and I think this year there's going to be a big celebration. And Evelin Bryan who taught school in San Fernando and was in the in the English Department. I think she's writing part of this. Now that I can find up for you also.

Dodson: You mentioned your going to school. Can you tell us the names of some of your high school teachers and that sort of thing.

Raney: Yoll yoll uh Miss Musaken (SP?) was our high school teacher r.. our counselor our head woman when I graduated from San Fernando High School. Now wait a minute, of I wish I had started earlier. One of my first teachers in Mission Acres School was a Mrs. Luke who had a wooden arm. And she was a disciplinarian and a marvelous teacher. Then..

Boyer: Ha ha.

Raney: May May Drake was my fifth grade teacher who taught us California History and she was a small woman that you never forgot anything she taught you. Then there was a Mrs. Ferguson in grammar school who taught the sixth grade and a Mrs. Turtin (SP?) who taught seventh and eighth grade. And uh ...let me see who else do I remember from...oh Miss Edds (SP?) was the principal..

Plummer: Evalin Edds (SP?)

Raney: Evalin Edds (SP?) was the principal of the Mission Acres Grammar school. And she was also a disciplinarian and

would remember one thing that she was really on the carpet for. She found a boy playing with matches and she burned his fingers. And that was her manner in school.... And this caused really big furor.

Dodson: At the present time it caused a law suit.

Raney: Ya it would but you know that was one of those things, that was a different era. Ha ha ... In high school uh oh there's so many different teachers. Uh besides Mussy (SP?) there was uh your friend.. who is the one that taught algebra. Qu..Queball Kinsey (SP?) he had a head like yours. Ha ha... And he was an old man.....

Dodson: Uh perhaps I should for the records say that my head is rather distinctive for the lack of hair. Otherwise a person hearing this tape won't get the point.

Raney: O.K. well Queball Kinsey (SP?) ... used to uh sit with a bag of peanuts..

Dodson: I'm sorry I said anything.

Boyer: Ha ha.

Raney: Queball Kinsey sat with a bag of peanuts, in his lower drawer. Periodically he goes.....he was an old man. I never had him but John had him. And he was one of the characters at San Fernando High School and he taught algebra.

Boyer: Ha ha.

Raney: And uh anyway there was uh... Who was my botany teacher? Oh there was a chemistry and physics teacher who was a woman named Mrs. Poor (SP?). And she wore common ordinary house dresses and with the plain looking woman with fabulous sense of humor. She had a big mole on the side of her face and she was brilliant, just brilliant. A woman chemistry and physics teacher. Uh Helen Hecler (SP?) was the drama teacher. Eveline Bryan was uh an english teacher, Adaley Williams (SP?) the vice president. Uh..

Dodson: Vice president, do you mean vice principal?

Raney: Vice principal, vice principal... And the principal of the school was Harry Gross. Who was a very fine man and accomplished musician. The conductor of the orchectra and music was Dorothy Dicky. Who was a little bit of a bird like woman. Uh this is fun I haven't thought about these for a log time...

Dodson: You have a marvalous memory because most people can't

give us more than one or two names.

Boyer: Ya, that's true.

Raney: Well if thought I could name 'em.. If you wont more of those I'll write those for you too.

Boyer: O.k. ya that would be great cause I got.....

Raney: I've got year book up there somewhere.

Boyer: Some of the names of, of how you spelled some of the names. So that.....

Raney: O.K.

Boyer: Moosikian.....

Raney: Moosekian.

Boyer: Mossekian.

Raney: Moosekian.

Dodson: You uh mention that someone was rather strick as a disciplinarian. Would you say discipline in general was much stricker then than now?

Raney: Oh yes. Decidedly there there was much more restrictions on students and we marched in sat down together and there was still roll call and this sort of thing. And I think the in todays classroom situation it's much less formal.

Dodson: Uh huh.. So you feel thery wouldn't have been uh the sort of things that we hear about now. The asult on teachers and uh.

Raney: Oh n..no that...

Dodson: Use and that sort of thing.

Raney: .....Suspended students if they. .....They wrong they were out. But I think there was it was sort of considered a disgrace to do anything like that. To be bad.

Dodson: One thing that we uh hear about continually in the Valley as we interview people would be the general situation on crime. Everyone that we've interviewed says that a in the earlier days in the Valley it was perfectly safe to take walks at night go out and now of course it isn't. People afraid to go outside their houses at night. Would that be your impresssion too?

Raney: I would gather from what I read. The situation that

exists now because we were never afraid. We walked, we ran, we road bicycles and there were no problems ever anywhere.

Dodson: So you would say there was very little crime in the Valley in the past.

Raney: Right.

Dodson: As you remembered.

Raney: No I can't remember..... I can remember once there was a fight on the grammar school playground and uh Mexican boy took a knife to another kid. But that really caused a ... a lot of excitement and they expelled that kid from school. His name was Davis.

Boyer: Ha ha.....

Dodson: Well...

Boyer: ...You wanted to ask about the historical sites of... some of the names of the house the boys school. That was your grandfather's house right?

Raney: Well it has become that but I, I don't know what the name is now. No.

Boyer: You know any other historical sites around the Valley that? That we might not know about some old homes. ...Your home is still standing still you gave us that address.

Plummer: I can't think of any right now.

Raney: I don't know I'll I'll...I'll think about that. I don't really know.

Boyer: I don't there's a lot ....all divided up..... sometimes..

Raney: Is Whitsett's home still standing?

Dodson: Now I'm not sure of the answer to that. That's something we have to check on.

Raney: It's down on Van Nuys Blvd. Was it down on Van Nuys Blvd. beyond down there where Praisewater's is now or somewhere?

Plummer: Ya.

Boyer: That would be interesting...

Raney: Uh huh.

Boyer: Cause we're tring to locate as many as we can.

Raney: Oh.

Boyer: The best way to do is from the .... of the Valley.

Raney: Uh huh.

Boyer: They know. And a lot of people just don't have any.

Dodson: Now you....

Boyer: Excuse me but if you find out exactly where maybe that is. To help us a little more.

Raney: Uhh..

Boyer: If you remember.

Raney: ..... I'd show you but I don't. I couldn't.

Boyer: Ya it would be hard. It's hard...

Raney: .....

Boyer: We keep looking for it.

Dodson: Is there any road that runs through that at the present time or is it just abandoned so far as you know.

Raney: Where?

Dodson: Beale's Cut or Fremont's Pass.

Raney: I don't know I really don't know. I'd love to go down there, prowl around myself.

Boyer: ....We're not sure where to get off or. We've gotten some idea. Some people keep telling us you know where it is but there not positive. So we figure keep asking soon or later we'll but it all together...ha ha...

Dodson: Now you can probably think of some significant things or events or anecdotes that we haven't ask about at all, what you fell should be recorded. And we welcome anything we haven't thought of, I can assure you.

Raney: I think I've thrown out everything I can think of, ha ha. Including the phone number...Ha ha.

Dodson: Speaking of phone numbers we have a copy of the Los Angeles telephone directory of 1882. With about 90 subscribers for the whole city.

Raney: We've seen that, we've seen that. Uh I tried to take daddy. We didn't go this year to the First Century Families Luncheon which is held once a year at the Hilton. And these are all the people whose families came before 1880 or their descendents. And they have a topic uh at the luncheon. There's a speaker or two or three speakers and the last couple of times they've shown slides or films or .... ? And uh it really is a fine affair. It's fun, because all the old Sepulvedas and ..... (SP?) you know the earlest families are all there it's fun.

Dodson: That's held every year?

Raney: That's held once a year. It's called First Centuryies Families. First Century Families.

Dodson: That would be very interesting to attend. I can uh can very well imagine.

Boyer: .....

Raney: It's an organization and uh uh Miss Dockweiler was always very important and Mary Foley (SP?) was. The Workman's (SP?) family is still associated with it. Uh my sister was the chairman of it two years ago. And it's uhm if your interested in first century families I can see what I can find out about that for you too.

Boyer: Sure.

Dodson: You have been listening to an interview with Mr. John L. Plummer, Mrs. Pearle C. Zimmerman and Mrs. Mary Lou Plummer Raney. This interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles Valley Historical Museum and by Miss Paula Boyer, Field deputy to Dr. Dodson. The interview took place on November 21, 1976 at Bakersfield, California.